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World Production and Trade

United States
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Foreign
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Service

Washington, D.C. 20250

Weekly
Roundup

WR 17-84

April 25, 1984

The Foreign Agricultural Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture today reported the following developments in world agriculture and trade:

OILSEEDS AND PRODUCTS

At its April 17 tender, the State Trading Corporation of INDIA bought 100,000 tons of vegetable oils for April/May shipment. Included in this amount are 61,500 tons of soybean oil, 22,000 tons of rapeseed oil, and 16,500 tons of palm oil and palm olein. India's imports of soybean oil in 1983/84 are forecast at 500,000 tons, 25 percent above last year's level. U.S. soybean oil exports to India during October 1983-March 1984 were about 80,000 tons, far ahead of shipments during the same period last year.

According to a U.S. embassy report, the Ministry of Agriculture and Industry of MADAGASCAR plans to institute a soybean import program to fill the gap between needs and domestic production. Soybean imports would average about 25,000 tons for a number of years and would support a crushing plant and a soymilk plant. Surplus soybean meal would be exported to provide needed foreign exchange.

FISHMEAL EXPORTERS ORGANIZATION (FEO) COUNTRIES' output and trade of fishmeal continued to decline in January 1984. Data below indicate production, exports and stocks in January 1984 fell by 47 percent, 52 percent and 9 percent, respectively. Data are as follows in 1,000 tons:

Country	-----January 1983-----			-----January 1984-----		
	Production	Exports	Ending Stocks	Production	Exports	Ending Stocks
Chile	26	65	106	14	19	112
Iceland	2	4	3	2	10	10
Norway	28	14	57	12	8	60
Peru	43	37	96	24	21	57
Total	99	120	262	52	58	239

During early March, fishmeal prices, basis Europe, at about \$428 per ton, were only 6 percent above the same month last year. Despite reduced fishmeal supplies, the fishmeal/soybean meal price ratio declined to 1.70 to 1.0 compared with 1.77 to 1.0 a year ago.

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DAIRY, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

The YUGOSLAVIAN census of January 1984 shows cattle numbers down 0.2 percent to 5.34 million head, with cow numbers down 2.5 percent to 1.97 million head. Hog numbers were up 11.5 percent to 9.33 million head, with sow numbers up 13.3 percent to 1.5 million. Prior to the release of the census, hog numbers were expected to be down due to feed shortages in the socialized sector. However, rapid growth in the private sector facilitated expansion of the national herd.

Poultry meat production in INDONESIA totaled 210,000 tons in 1983, 5 percent above the 1982 level. The 1984 production outlook is very uncertain due to a law that becomes effective on May 1 that is designed to protect small producers. That law limits individual producers to marketing no more than 750 broilers per week.

TOBACCO

Despite two price increases during the year of 5 and 5.9 percent, FINLAND's cigarette, cigar and snuff sales increased during 1983. Cigarette sales increased by 200 million pieces to 7.119 billion pieces, cigar and cigarillo sales by 9.2 million pieces to 56.5 million pieces, and snuff sales by 0.3 tons to 44.5 tons. However, pipe tobacco sales continued a downward trend from 900.4 tons to 874.4 tons.

Leaf tobacco imports into Finland in 1983 totaled 5,708 tons, down 3.7 percent from 1982. The U.S. share of imports increased from 42.1 to 47.8 percent. Brazil and Turkey were the other major suppliers with a 17-percent share and a 6-percent share, respectively.

FRUITS AND NUTS

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE dried prune supplies for 1984 are forecast to increase only marginally over the 1983 volume to 14,900 tons. With dried prune output in Argentina and South Africa expected to remain at the 1983 levels, and Australia's 1984 outturn off 14 percent due to rain damage and disease problems, Chile is the only commercial producer in the Southern Hemisphere expected to register an increase in 1984. This increase is the result of favorable weather conditions, new orchards beginning to bear fruit and an increase in productivity from established orchards. New plantings made during 1979-82, as well as a projected increase in supplies of European-type prunes for processing, is expected to expand Chile's output of dried prunes significantly over the next several years.

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Commercial production of raisins/sultanas by Southern Hemisphere producers is expected to total only 120,200 tons in 1984, 7 percent below the 1983 level. Although South Africa's 1984 output currently is forecast to fall 11 percent short of last season's record volume, it will still remain the second largest outturn to date. Excessive rainfall has reportedly lowered crop prospects in both Australia and Argentina. Argentine raisin packers are apparently also competing with wine manufacturers for reduced 1984 supplies of fresh grapes. A sharp decline in 1983 raisin export prices in Chile has seemingly induced growers to limit output during the 1984 season.

Production in selected countries of the Southern Hemisphere is forecast as follows in 1,000 tons:

	1982	1983	1984 1/
Prunes			
Argentina	9.0	6.0	6.0
Australia	1.0	2.8	2.4
Chile	3.8	4.0	4.5
South Africa	1.5	2.0	2.0
Total	15.3	14.8	14.9
Raisins			
Argentina	6.0	7.5	6.0
Australia 2/	96.2	85.0	82.0
Chile	2.5	3.2	3.0
South Africa	24.8	32.9	29.2
Total	129.5	128.6	120.2

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Sultanas, raisins, currants.

WOOD AND WOOD PRODUCTS

The U.S. agricultural attache in Stockholm has reported that SWEDEN's sawmill production in 1983 totaled 11.5 million cubic meters, up 7.5 percent from the 1982 total and the highest level since 1974. The Swedish forest industry, in general, improved in 1983 largely because of a 16-percent devaluation in the Swedish krona. The devaluation led to a 10-percent price advantage for the krona compared to the Finnish mark. Finland is Sweden's largest competitor for European and Middle Eastern wood products markets. In 1984, sawmill production is projected to remain in the 11-12 million cubic meter range.

Future sawmill production in Sweden will depend largely on the efforts of Finland to regain market shares lost to Sweden as a result of the devaluation. The timber pricing policies of Finland and British Columbia, another major wood products competitor in Europe, also are expected to affect Sweden's timber production strategy and position in international markets. The pricing policies of these three countries should affect the ability of the United States to market lower grades of softwood lumber in Europe. The market for U.S. higher grade clears in Europe is not expected to be influenced by these policies.

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Swedish lumber exports in 1983 surged 13 percent above 1982 levels to 8.5 million cubic meters, a 10-year high. Sweden and Finland's sawmill production and exports for the 12-year period, 1972-83, are summarized below:

Year	-----Production----- (In million cubic meters)		-----Exports-----	
	Sweden	Finland	Sweden	Finland
1972	12.8	7.2	8.4	4.9
1973	13.8	7.2	8.4	4.9
1974	14.0	7.5	7.4	4.3
1975	10.6	4.9	5.3	2.9
1976	11.0	5.8	6.6	3.9
1977	10.6	7.0	6.1	4.4
1978	10.9	7.6	6.8	5.5
1979	11.0	9.7	6.9	6.6
1980	10.9	10.2	5.9	6.9
1981	10.0	8.3	5.6	5.4
1982	10.7	7.3	7.5	4.5
1983	11.5	8.0	8.5	4.9

Wood products trade is an important aspect of the Swedish economy. The forest industry accounted for over 19 percent of the country's total exports in 1983, but only 2 percent of imports. The 1983 contribution from each forest industry sector to Sweden's positive wood trade balance is listed below:

Commodity Sector	Export Value	
	(SKr billion)	(\$ billion)
Sawmill Industry	9.0	1.2
Board Industry	1.0	0.1
Paper Products	17.0	2.2
Pulp	8.0	1.0
Other Products	3.0	0.4
Total	38.0	4.9

Selected International Prices

Item	: April 24, 1984		: Change from	: A year
	:		: previous week	: ago
ROTTERDAM PRICES 1/	\$ per MT	\$ per bu.	\$ per MT	\$ per MT
Wheat:				
Canadian No. 1 CWRS-13.5%.9/	200.00	5.44	+1.00	205.00
U.S. No. 2 DNS/NS: 14%..9/	185.50	5.05	+.25	189.00
U.S. No. 2 S.R.W.....	171.00	4.65	+1.00	159.00
U.S. No. 3 H.A.D..9/.....	191.00	5.39	+1.00	191.00
Canadian No. 1 A: Durum..9/	198.00	5.39	-5.00	208.00
Feed grains:				
U.S. No. 3 Yellow Corn....	164.00	4.16	+2.00	147.00
Soybeans and meal:				
U.S. No. 2 Yellow.....	321.75	8.75	+12.75	257.50
Brazil 47/48% SoyaPellets	228.50	--	+9.50	227.00
U.S. 44% Soybean Meal.....	225.00	--	+10.50	224.00
U.S. FARM PRICES 3/				
Wheat.....	133.73	3.64	-.36	138.14
Barley.....	101.96	2.22	-.45	83.13
Corn.....	131.88	3.35	+.39	116.92
Sorghum.....	111.77	5.07	+.22	108.68
Broilers 4/.....	1178.13	--	-66.83	968.70
EC IMPORT LEVIES				
Wheat 5/.....	74.30	2.02	+1.50	103.10
Barley.....	71.60	1.56	-1.20	96.00
Corn.....	53.00	1.35	+.70	77.80
Sorghum.....	77.95	1.98	-.75	72.95
Broilers 4/ 6/ 8/.....	172.00	--	0	310.00
EC INTERVENTION PRICES 7/				
Common wheat(feed quality)	185.70	5.05	-.10	186.60
Bread wheat (min. quality)7/	201.90	5.49	-.10	204.68
Barley and all				
other feed grains.....	185.70	--	-.10	186.60
Broilers 4/ 6/.....	1186.00	--	-23.00	1139.00
EC EXPORT RESTITUTIONS (subsidies)				
Wheat	N.A.	--	--	65.45
Barley.....	N.A.	--	--	76.55
Broilers 4/ 6/ 8/.....	135.00	--	0	209.00

1/ Asking prices in U.S. dollars for imported grain and soybeans, c.i.f., Rotterdam. 2/ Hundredweight (CWT). 3/ Twelve-city average, wholesale weighted average. 4/ EC category--70 percent whole chicken. 5/ Reflects lower EC export subsidy--down to 20.000 ECU/100 bag effective 9/14/83 from 22.50 ECU/100 bag set in 2/83. 6/ F.o.b. price for R.T.C. broilers at West German border. 7/ Reference price. 8/Reflects exchange rate change and not level set by EC. 9/ June-July shipment. N.Q.=Not quoted. N.A.=None authorized. Note: Basis May delivery.

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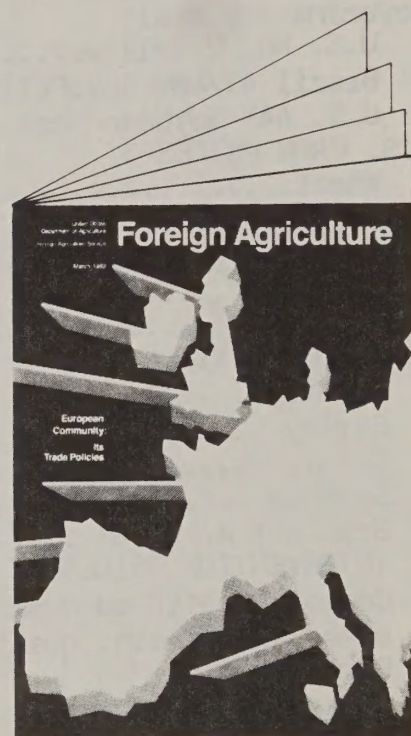
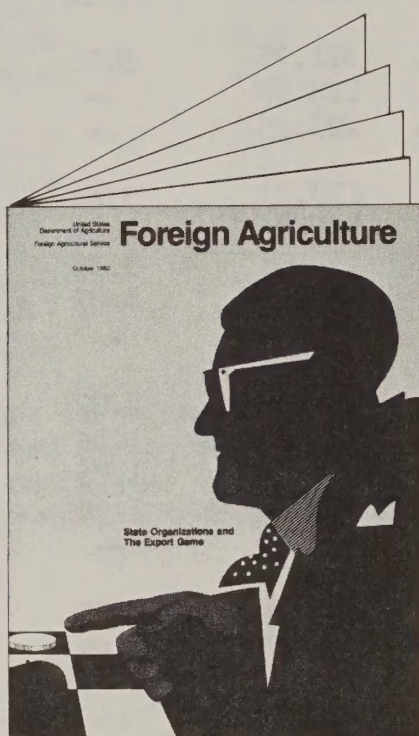
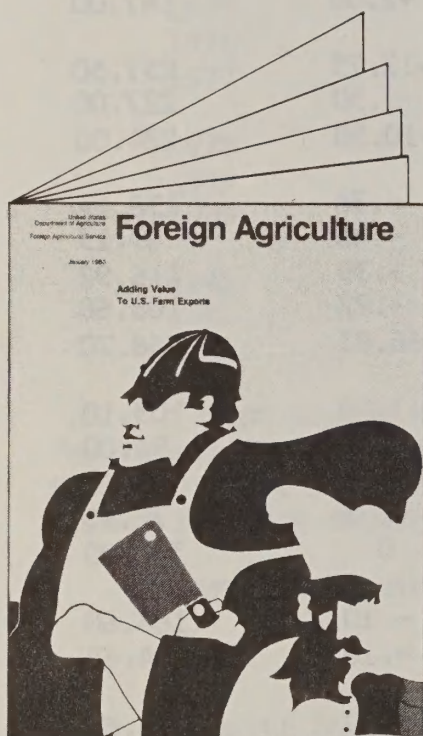
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